

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

APPLICANT: Alexander Kreiter et al CONFIRMATION NO.: 9789
SERIAL NO.: 10/588,342 GROUP ART UNIT: 2852
FILED: November 1, 2007 EXAMINER: Robert B. Beatty
INVENTION: **CONTROL DEVICE AND METHOD FOR CONTROLLING AN ELECTROPHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTER OR COPIER**

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

SIR:

In response to the final Office Action of March 8, 2011, the following is submitted to place this case in condition for allowance:

IN THE CLAIMS

1-60. (cancelled)

61. (previously presented) A method for controlling an electrophotographic printer or copier that has at least one developer station for developing a latent charge image on a photoconductor with toner, comprising the steps of:

detecting a toner discharge from the developer station during print operation and starting a developer regeneration process when the detected toner discharge fulfills a predetermined first regeneration criterion;

generating a charge image on the photoconductor, developing the charge image by the developer station, and removing the developed image by a cleaning device without being transfer-printed onto a recording medium;

introducing new toner into the developer station; and

wherein the printer or copier comprises a plurality of developer stations whose toner discharge is respectively detected and in which for the case that the developer regeneration process is started for one developer station, it is checked whether the detected toner discharge of the remaining developer stations fulfills a second regeneration criterion, and a developer regeneration process is likewise started for developer stations in which the second regeneration criterion is fulfilled.

62. (previously presented) A method according to claim 61 wherein the second regeneration criterion is fulfilled when the average toner discharge has fallen below a predetermined threshold for a predetermined number of successive time intervals that is less than the predetermined threshold in the first regeneration criterion.

63-84 (cancelled)

85. (previously presented) A control device for an electrophotographic printer or copier that has at least one developer station for developing a latent charge image on a photoconductor with toner, said control device performing the functions of:

detecting toner discharge from the developer station during print operation and which starts a developer regeneration process when the detected toner discharge fulfills a predetermined first regeneration criterion;

when a charge image is generated on a photoconductor, detecting the charge image by the developer station and removing the developed image by a cleaning device without being transfer-printed onto a recording medium;

introducing new toner into the developer station;

the control device being suited to determine an average toner discharge for time intervals of predetermined length, and in which the first regeneration criterion is fulfilled when the average toner discharge has fallen below a predetermined threshold for a predetermined number of successive time intervals; and

wherein the printer or copier comprises a plurality of developer stations whose toner discharge is respectively detected and when it starts the developer regeneration process for one developer station the control device checks whether detected toner discharge of remaining developer stations fulfills a second regeneration criterion, and starts a developer regeneration process for developer stations in which the second regeneration criterion is fulfilled.

86. (previously presented) A control device according to claim 85 wherein the second regeneration criterion is fulfilled when an average toner discharge has fallen below a predetermined threshold for a predetermined number of successive time intervals that is lower than the predetermined threshold given the first regeneration criterion.

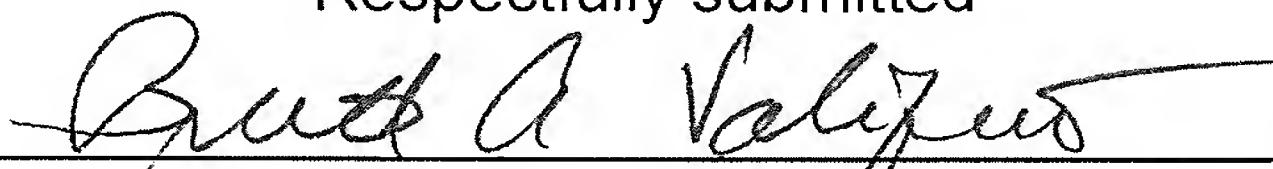
87-98 (cancelled)

R E M A R K S

The Examiner indicated in the final Office Action at page 6 that claims 61-62 and 85-86 are allowable. Thus since the rejected claims have now all been cancelled, this case is now in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment to account No. 501519.

Respectfully submitted

 (Reg. 27,841)

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